

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO.

# INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

25X1

COUNTRY

## East Germany

DATE DISTR.

**SUBJECT**

1st VP Air Division

NO. OF PAGES

PLACE

ACQUIRED

NO. OF ENCLS.  
(LISTED BELOW)

DATE OF INFO.

SUPPLEMENT TO  
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**REF ID: A66387**

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1. In early September, [ ] the flying and ground personnel of the 1st VP Air Div, and the division headquarters were located in Cottbus. The administrative personnel of the 1st and 3d Regts were stationed in Bautzen and the administrative personnel of the 2d Regt in Kamenz. The 1st, 2d and 3d Maint Bns were located in Cottbus, Kamenz and Bautzen respectively. (1)

## 2. Personnel Strengths.

Division

a. Headquarters:

The headquarters consisted of about 120 officers and EW. The exact strength could not be determined because most of the personnel were attending courses in Cottbus, Ramenz and Bautzen. Only about 15 officers and 10 EW were observed at the headquarters building itself. A radar section of three officers and eight EW was also assigned to the division headquarters, which furthermore included a signal section, the officers and Unterkommissare of which had been trained in Pirna. In early September, the division had organized a training course for the flying and service personnel of its three regiments. Source observed a total of 320 men, entering the billets. (2)

- b. Each regiment of the division consisted of a headquarters of about 30 men and of three squadrons. About 25 administrative personnel were assigned to each squadron.
- c. Each maintenance battalion consisted of an aircraft maintenance unit, a fuel supply unit of about 20 men, a motor transport unit of about 80 men, a signal unit, and a supply unit. (3)

3. Specialized training was exclusively organized by the headquarters of the 1st Air Division. General military training was conducted on the basis of regulations issued by the Main Administration for Training (MVA). In early September, a training course for flying and technical personnel was held in Cottbus. Instruction was given on Yak-9 and Yak-18 aircraft including their engines. Instruction on aerodynamics, and navigation, and political indoctrination were also given.

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Lessons were given from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. and after 5 p.m. The training was scheduled to last three years. However, the program could also be covered in 15 months. Another training course was organized for future instructors in navigation. Polizeirat Kurt Dobidat and five other men participated in a course for parachutists, which was to make the students familiar with the folding of parachutes and the peculiarities of the six different types of parachutes in use. Parachute jumps with these parachutes were also practiced. On 14 September, a signal communications course was scheduled to start in Bautzen. The personnel of the radar section of the division headquarters was to attend this course. A course for the handling of oxygen was held in Kamenz. (4)

4. No technical instructions were given to the administrative personnel of the three regiments and the three maintenance battalions. The daily duties of these personnel included guard details, basic training, training in firing, physical training and political indoctrination. The units in Kamenz rotated for harvesting work.
5. A training course was given for junior officers in Pirna until about early August 1952. Subjects taught included Russian, chemistry, physics, geometry and mathematics. The students were told that they were designated to serve as pilots. Soviet medical officers thoroughly inspected them and rejected many of the trainees. Those who met the required physical standards were asked whether they were ready to attend, for a period of two years, a school from where they could not go on leave. Those who consented to go were granted a leave and, according to a VP Kommissar, who was rejected as physically unfit, probably departed to the U.S.S.R. in early September 1952. (5)
6. In early September, recruits from 18 to 24 years old continuously arrived for the 1st VP Air Div in Kamenz. The recruits had to wear their civilian clothes for a number of days, because enough uniforms were not available. Prior to being recruited, the young men were promised that they would be given assignments with special consideration to their professional training. However, this promise was not kept.
7. Many of the members of the 1st VP Air Div inasmuch as they did not belong to the flying or maintenance personnel were dissatisfied with their new status. Prior to their transfer to the Air Police they had been promised that they would receive at least the same pay as in their previous assignments. However, many of the officers were given assignments in which they drew less pay than before.
8. On 7 October 1952, on the occasion of the parade in East Berlin celebrating the anniversary of the foundation of the German Democratic Republic, five companies of the Kasernierte Volkspolizei numbering 100 men each were observed. They definitely were an air force unit. The companies marched in ranks of 10 men abreast. The first company was led by a major and the first rank of this unit consisted exclusively of officers. The other companies were also led by an officer but consisted only of EM having the same grade. The soldiers were unarmed and wore epaulets with a silver cross bar. Officers and enlisted men wore olive drab uniforms, those of the officers being of a superior quality and cut. Both wore light blue collar patches, the EM with a silver wing on them. All the uniforms seen had closed collars. The cuffs of officers' uniforms had light blue pipings and pipings of the same color were on the outside seams of their breeches. The officers also wore belts and epaulets. The company commanders had service caps with black-red-gold cockades and wings. The 10 officers of the first rank of the first company wore olive drab garrison caps in the Soviet style with light blue pipings. The EM wore olive drab blouses and ski trousers, black belts with metal buckles without any emblems, and light blue-bordered olive drab epaulets, the size of the former German epaulets. The cockades on garrison caps had no wings. No special insignia were seen.

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9. Of the 500 Air Police, 450 were 17 to 20 years old, the remainder 20 to 23 years old. The personnel showed excellent marching discipline and, contrary to the other VP units, seemed to represent an elite. (6)

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[ ] Comments.

- (1) The headquarters of the VP air division was previously believed to be located in Kamenz. However, [ ] knowledge of the organization of the first VP air division, [ ] that the division headquarters and the 1st Regt are stationed in Cottbus, and the 2d and 3d Regts in Kamenz and Bautzen respectively, is believed to be correct. The assumption that the flying personnel of the division was assembled in Cottbus for training was reported previously. [ ]. On 25 and 26 September, pilots, who had attended this course, arrived in Bautzen, where their training was continued. The same applies probably also to Kamenz. [ ]

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- (2) A signal school of the Kasernierte Volkspolizei is located in Pirna.
- (3) The organization of the regiments and battalions follows the Soviet pattern. The flying personnel and particularly well trained technical personnel are assigned to the regiments. To each regiment is attached a special maintenance and supply battalion, which corresponds to the Soviet OATBs.
- (4) It was previously assumed that training of pilots was conducted with Yak-11s. However, the description of the aircraft given [ ] is too vague to support this assumption. Since initial pilot training was given at the time of observation it appears more probably that Yak-18s were actually used. However, this point requires clarification. Information on the signal course given in Bautzen was transmitted previously. [ ]
- (5) This item of information cannot be evaluated. The possibility that pilots of the former German Air Force are being trained outside Germany was indicated previously. According to other reports, there is a Soviet agency at Sonnenstein Castle near Pirna, to which German technical personnel and engineers are assigned.
- (6) For uniforms and grade insignia observed at the parade in Berlin, see Annex.

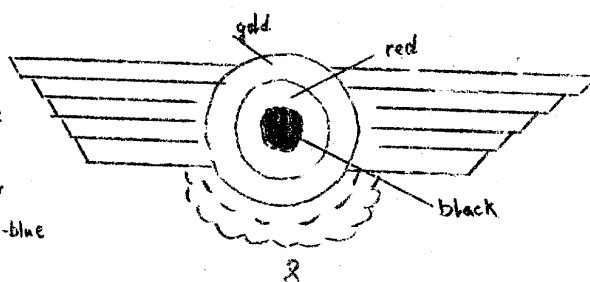
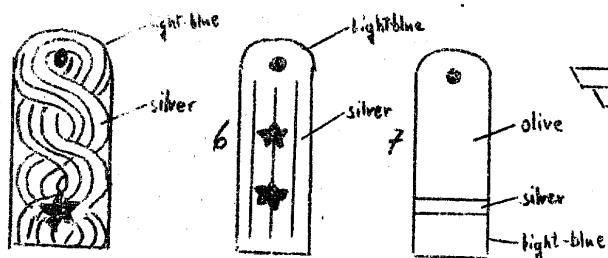
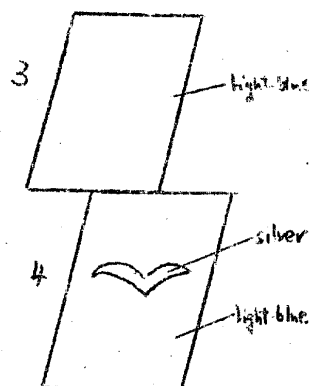
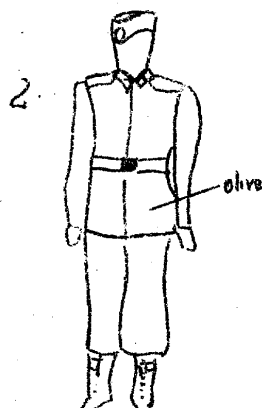
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Annex

Uniforms and Grade Insignia of VP Air Units  
Observed in Berlin



Legend:

1. Officers' uniform
2. EN uniform
3. Collar patch for officers
4. Collar patch for EN
5. Epaulet worn by field-grade officers
6. Epaulets worn by junior officers
7. Epaulets worn by Pfc
8. Insignia worn on officers' caps

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